

From: Jim Holden
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/2/02 4:04pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I feel very strongly that the settlement reached between the DOJ/states and Microsoft is fair to all parties involved and that further litigation is counter-productive for both the US economy and consumers. I am a retired IT professional having worked in both hardware and software design using Microsoft products and services. I have always found Microsoft to provide superior products and excellent support. As a consumer, I have never felt that I have been harmed in any way by their monopoly of the OS market.

Although I know that the DOJ has the best interests of the consumer in mind, I feel that they and the dissenting states are bending to pressure being brought by Microsoft's competitors. If you consider the number of hours of development and testing time that goes into the release of an operating system like any of the MS Windows versions, the selling price is ridiculously low. If they were really abusing their monopoly powers, they could be charging consumers much more. As for embedding features in the operating system, I think the consumer only benefits from this practice. I do not know of anyone who is complaining that their operating system has too many features!

In the interest of fair disclosure, I should point out that I have been a Microsoft stockholder for nearly ten years. However, I invested in Microsoft because I believe they are producing superior products and not because I would want them to take advantage of their OS monopoly in any way.

Please end the litigation and let the development community get on with the business of producing better and more innovative products for all consumers.

Sincerely,

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